

## REMARKS

Claims 4, 12-15, and 17-21 are pending. Claims 4, and 12-14 have been amended. Claims 1-3, 5, 8-11, and 16 have been cancelled. New claims 17-21 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the November 17, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 12, 13, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112 and 35 U.S.C. §101. The Applicants have amended claims 12 and 13 to overcome these rejections. Claim 16 has been cancelled. The Examiner allowed claims 4, 14, and 15. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over each of Yasuhiro et al., (Yasuhiro, Japanese Patent Document NO. 04-228545, cited by the Applicants in the IDS submitted November 25, 2002, hereinafter the Yasuhiro reference) or Norio et al., (Norio, Japanese Patent Document NO. 62-112759, cited by the Applicants in the IDS submitted November 25, 2002, hereinafter the Norio reference). Claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 have been cancelled. The Examiner rejected claims 3, 5, and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the Norio reference. Claims 3, 5, and 10-11 have been cancelled.

The Examiner allowed claims 4, 14, and 15. The Examiner stated in the Office Action that claims 4, 14, and 15 are allowable because "none of the references alone in combination teach or suggest an alloy sheet having a magnetostriction of between  $(-15 \times 10^{-6})$  and  $(25 \times 10^{-6})$  after having been subjected to softening and annealing and wherein the {100} degree of accumulation on the rolled surface is 40 to 90%." By this

amendment, the Applicants have slightly amended claims 4 and 14 for reasons of form. The Applicants believe that independent claims 4 and 14, as amended, and dependent claim 15, are in condition for allowance.

The Applicants have added new claims 17-21 to further define the invention and distinguish over the above-cited references.

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendment and remarks place the application in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

Date: February 10, 2004

By: 

Roger R. Wise  
Registration No. 31,204

725 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2800  
Los Angeles, CA 90017-5406  
Telephone: (213) 488-7100  
Facsimile: (213) 629-1033